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DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY  
BUREAU OF ORDNANCE  
WASHINGTON 25, D. C.

IN REPLY REFER TO

Re 62-DLW:al

27 JUN 1951

Ser 003488

613

SECRET

From: Chief, Bureau of Ordnance

To: Chief of Naval Operations (Op-32)

Subj: German Optical Torpedo Exploder

Ref: (a) CNO Ltr. Op-322F2/fb Ser 001594F32  
of 1 June 1951  
(b) NAVEXOS Report R-419 (Summary Report;  
Torpedo Exploders)

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OPNAV
COMMUNICATIONS SECTION
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1-1
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Encl: (1) Encl (1) of ref (a)

1. Reference (a) reports details of the German Optical Bomb Command and Optical Exploder Systems and requests comment on the desirability of obtaining exploder units for the U. S. Navy.

2. The Bureau of Ordnance has some data on this exploder, though more data is available on its predecessor, "Pi-O". A summary of this data is found in reference (b), Sections 14.5 and 14.6.

3. The Bureau of Ordnance desires to procure five or six exploders for research purposes if the cost can be reduced below the figures proposed in reference (a). Funds to the extent of \$25,000 can be made available for these units together with descriptive drawing materials, manufacturing license rights and one electrical test set or check-out meter (with appropriate connectors).

4. Since Leuchtfisch is an improvement on Pi-O and all twenty of the original Leuchtfisch models were destroyed, there is sufficient justification for moderate expenditures to get working units of this device before knowledge of this phase of exploder art is lost entirely.

5. The Bureau of Ordnance requests that if suitable arrangements can be made the procured material be delivered to the Applied Physics Laboratory, University of Washington, Seattle, Washington for investigation under the new exploder methods task of the Bureau of Ordnance Contract NOrd-7818.

6. Enclosure (1) is returned as requested.

JUL 1951

M. F. SCHOFFEL

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By direction

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Encl (1) to Ser 001594F32